

have reported suicidal thoughts, compared with only 6 percent of their non-military peers.

If we can provide mental health services that are able to assist just a single veteran who is contemplating suicide to choose to live, I believe it is our sworn duty to do so. We have that opportunity now.

I am proud to support the STRONG Veterans Act, and I am very grateful to Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for including my bill, the Student Veterans Counseling Center Eligibility Act. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 6411 in support of our Nation's veterans.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ROUZER).

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, after hearing from my constituent whose veteran spouse tragically died by suicide, and learning of the obstacles they faced when trying to receive critical mental health support for themselves and their children following his death, I introduced a bill to ensure veteran families struggling from such a loss have access to the support they need and deserve.

My legislative language, included in this bill before us today, the STRONG Veterans Act, expands Vet Center eligibility for counseling and mental health services to families of servicemembers or veterans who died by suicide. This expansion of services is necessary so that these families can receive the critical mental health support needed to help them heal and move forward.

We all know that grief can be extremely isolating, and the families of servicemembers and veterans who have died by suicide should not have to worry about enduring this difficult journey alone.

Our military families who support a loved one who is serving, or has served, make a tremendous sacrifice for our country, as well. We must ensure they have access to the care that they deserve and the help that they need when trying to move forward after a suicide has devastated them and their family.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for working with me to include this very important piece of legislation in this package, and I encourage my colleagues to support it.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

First off, I say thank you to all the people who have worked on this important piece of legislation for the support that it has received.

The important thing is that we get the care, treatment, and support for all the veterans who are considering suicide and the families who suffer from the fact that they have done it.

Madam Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, again, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing H.R. 6411, as amended, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6411, known as the STRONG Veterans Act of 2022.

As a senior member of the House Committees on Judiciary and Homeland Security, I care deeply about our veterans.

I offer my deepest gratitude to our Nation's troops and reservists, their families, and the 21.6 million veterans, including 29,126 in the 18th Congressional District of Texas that I proudly represent.

In Congress, I have sponsored many legislative proposals and co-sponsored well over 50 pieces of legislation that will positively benefit our veterans and their families.

Veterans with mental health diagnoses have a significantly elevated suicide risk. Suicide rates of veterans are at an all-time high, rising 25 percent in 2021 over the previous year. Veterans continue to have a 50 percent higher risk of suicide than their peers who have not served.

More than 80 percent of post-9/11 veterans say that the public does not understand the problems that veterans face when transitioning to civilian life.

Current resources to help the mental health of our veterans are inadequate. Our veterans need our support when transitioning back to civilian life.

The STRONG Veterans Act will:

Open eligibility for more student veterans at Vet Centers;

Expand culturally competent suicide prevention at VA for native veterans;

Significantly increase mental health staffing and training at VA medical centers and Vet Centers;

Further strengthen the Veterans Crisis Line; Allow more veterans to benefit from engaging with peer specialists; and

Collect data for VA to guide expansion of inpatient mental health and substance use treatment.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 6411.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6411, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

S. 2089,

H.R. 5407, and

H.R. 6493.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

#### KEEP KIDS FED ACT OF 2022

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2089) to amend title 38, United States Code, to ensure that grants provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for State veterans' cemeteries do not restrict States from authorizing the interment of certain deceased members of the reserve components of the Armed Forces in such cemeteries, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered. The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 376, nays 42, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 290]

YEAS—376

Adams	Castro (TX)	Fitzpatrick
Aderholt	Chabot	Fleischmann
Aguilar	Cheney	Fletcher
Allen	Cherfilus	Flores
Allred	McCormick	Foster
Amodei	Chu	Fox
Armstrong	Cicilline	Frankel, Lois
Arrington	Clark (MA)	Fulcher
Auchincloss	Clarke (NY)	Gallagher
Axne	Cleaver	Gallego
Babin	Clyburn	Garamendi
Bacon	Cohen	Garbarino
Baird	Cole	Garcia (CA)
Balderson	Comer	Garcia (IL)
Barr	Connolly	Garcia (TX)
Barragán	Cooper	Gibbs
Bass	Correa	Gimenez
Beatty	Costa	Golden
Bentz	Courtney	Gomez
Bera	Craig	Gonzales, Tony
Bergman	Crawford	Gonzalez (OH)
Beyer	Crenshaw	Gonzalez,
Bice (OK)	Crist	Vicente
Bilirakis	Crow	Gottheimer
Bishop (GA)	Cuellar	Granger
Blumenauer	Curtis	Graves (LA)
Blunt Rochester	Daids (KS)	Graves (MO)
Bonamici	Davis, Danny K.	Green (TN)
Bost	Davis, Rodney	Green, Al (TX)
Bourdeaux	Dean	Griffith
Boyle, Brendan	DeFazio	Grijalva
F.	DeGette	Grothman
Brady	DeLauro	Guthrie
Brown (MD)	DelBene	Harder (CA)
Brown (OH)	Demings	Harshbarger
Brownley	DeSaulnier	Hartzler
Buchanan	DesJarlais	Hayes
Bucshon	Deuth	Herrell
Budd	Diaz-Balart	Herrera Beutler
Burgess	Dingell	Higgins (NY)
Bush	Doggett	Hill
Bustos	Donalds	Himes
Butterfield	Doyle, Michael	Hinson
Calvert	F.	Horsford
Cammack	Duncan	Houlihan
Carbajal	Dunn	Hoyer
Cárdenas	Ellzey	Hudson
Carey	Emmer	Huffman
Carl	Escobar	Huizenga
Carson	Eshoo	Issa
Carter (GA)	Espallat	Jackson
Carter (LA)	Estes	Jackson Lee
Carter (TX)	Evans	Jacobs (CA)
Cartwright	Fallon	Jacobs (NY)
Case	Feenstra	Jayapal
Casten	Ferguson	Jeffries
Castor (FL)	Fischbach	Johnson (GA)